

## ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL

(AGIC)

**The next Board meeting will be held in PHOENIX on Thursday, January 4, 1996.  
There will be NO lunchtime presentation prior to the Board meeting.**

CALL TO ORDER - The Executive Management Board of the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC) met on **Thursday, November 2, 1995** in the large conference room on the basement floor (B1) of the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) facility, located at 1600 W. Monroe, in Phoenix. Gene Trobia, President of AGIC's Executive Management Board, called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. Having welcomed everyone, Mr. Trobia noted that, although the headcount of Board members and substitutes was currently one short of a quorum, one or two more people were still expected. In addition, Lynn Larson had to leave early to attend a critical budget meeting. Consequently, agenda items were not necessarily covered in the order listed, but each one was addressed, starting with those for which no action was required.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Upon returning to this topic, Seth Franzman moved that the minutes from both the July 6 and September 7 Board meetings be accepted as written. Dan Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

GOVERNOR'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE - Chris English introduced John Kelly, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Telecommunications Policy (TPO). He said that Mr. Kelly's specialty was law, particularly with respect to environmental issues. His credentials also include a BA degree from Lafayette College, in Pennsylvania, and participation in reuse planning for Williams Air Force Base.

Mr. Kelly provided handouts regarding the TPO. He encouraged people to keep in touch with him by E-mail but said not to get discouraged if he does not respond right away. He welcomes input and feedback, but he is often inundated with E-mail, receiving an average of five or six messages per hour. He is also in the process of entering data into his computer for the TPO. Fortunately, there is enough money in the budget for one additional person; so an assistant will probably be hired sometime within the next month or two to help ease the workload.

Mr. Kelly explained that there are parallel efforts within Arizona state government to try to fashion plans for information resource management and telecommunications. These efforts tend to be organized around clusters. The telecommunication industries constitute one such cluster.

Recognizing that technology has changed dramatically since the regulatory structure was established, some members of Congress have initiated debate on a new law that would amend the Communications Act of 1934. The debate is currently dominated by five or six industry lobbyists; so care must be taken to assure fairness to everyone involved. Compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must also be taken into consideration.

Mr. Kelly said the aspect he finds most interesting and hard to handle is competition. Many foresee a controlled system of regulated franchises. The TPO must figure out how to take advantage of the situation while avoiding pitfalls.

Coordination of the various existing technology task forces is also needed. Each group offers a high level of expertise in a given area, but there is much potential duplication of effort. Consequently, a central office has been recommended to help coordinate their efforts.

Priorities for the TPO include (1) studying the concept of universal service, (2) tracking the progress of regulation, (3) assessing the state of telecommunications in Arizona, and (4) understanding the status of the infrastructure.

Universal service means making sure everyone has access to the telecommunications structure. It is largely implemented through regulation. Now the element of competition will be added, especially in metropolitan areas. It is anticipated that there will be increased interest in advertising services and that basic service will change. The TPO is currently studying what other states are doing and attempting to determine what direction Arizona should take. To understand the infrastructure, the TPO must also evaluate what data lines are in place and what changes and/or additions are needed.

Mr. Kelly noted that there are significant applications for telecommunications in many different fields. In the realm of medicine, for example, many rural hospitals are greatly challenged because of limited funds and overuse. Telecommunications could be very helpful in coordinating treatment and reducing paperwork. Educating students regarding the practical use of telecommunications would also be beneficial. Those who are prepared will have a distinct advantage when they enter the work force. The North American Fair Trade Agreement (NAFTA) strategy also relies heavily on telecommunications. Arizona Department of Library, Archives, and Public Records and the community colleges are also interested in what is going on in the area of telecommunications.

The State, as a major potential customer, can facilitate a collaborative, coordinated approach. Once the State makes a firm commitment and starts purchasing the necessary equipment, others are likely to follow suit. The TPO is trying to make sure that decisions made within the state are good ones, worth mimicking. One source of input is a legislative study committee, composed of people from both the private and public sectors. The TPO's primary function right now is to ask questions and, hopefully, find people who can answer them.

At this point, Mr. Kelly solicited any questions or advice from those present. Gary Irish asked the best way for AGIC to make its needs

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known to the TPO, given that GIS is a large potential application for telecommunications technology. Mr. Kelly acknowledged that, in their efforts to enhance utilization of government information by electronic means, AGIC and the TPO will have to tackle some of the same issues, including network security and distribution. He welcomed everyone to keep sending him information and meeting agendas so that he can keep up to date on what is happening with respect to GIS.

Chris English asked if someone from the TPO would like to address the National States Geographic Information Council, which will be meeting in Arizona next September. Mr. Kelly accepted the invitation. He said the TPO hopes to be able to offer demonstrations of progress, or at least commitment, by then. Universal service involves state policy and will take longer, but the Legislature, the Secretary of State, and, hopefully, the Governor will be going on line in January. Meanwhile, one private sector acquaintance has looked at the telecommunications setup in Kansas as a possible model for Arizona.

Responding to an inquiry from Joan Laurence, Mr. Kelly indicated that almost every state has someone who does work similar to that of the TPO. Last July the State of Oregon created a special position to provide telecommunications advice to the governor. In many other states, people are probably still performing the work as part of their collateral duties.

Seth Franzman requested clarification on the type of competition expected. Mr. Kelly said there are 15 small local companies. U S West is getting into manufacturing and long-distance but will have to compete with all the other companies. There will be competition for in-state long distance service as well as among the infrastructures. Expansion in wireless service is also anticipated. The Internet has been a great equalizer in some ways and has solved many initial quandaries, but some feel the Internet will collapse under the weight of use in the near future. Mr. Kelly indicated that he has seen no evidence of an imminent collapse, but eventually someone will have to start paying.

Mr. Foley suggested the possibilities of having interactive federal agencies, perhaps utilizing the major microwave capabilities available through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and setting up local agreements. Mr. Kelly agreed that there will be opportunities to try innovative approaches but said federal agencies also need to be more responsive to local needs. He said GIS is an excellent example of how access to better information can help people make better decisions.

BUDGET - Lynn Larson distributed standard budget summaries, MAGIC '95 financial summaries, and interagency agreements and bills for use in collecting annual membership fees. Noting that AGIC was almost broke, Ms. Larson said any additional contributions would be very much appreciated. She explained that charges for printing the AGIC Newsletter have increased, and the price of paper has virtually doubled. Although the AGIC Newsletter can now be accessed through the Internet, postage costs have also increased because the mailing list is still growing. Therefore, to eliminate any unnecessary printing and distribution costs, it was suggested that cards or forms be included in the next issue, to be returned by everyone who wants to be kept on the mailing list.

Gary Irish later mentioned an additional expense of \$48.29 (to cover October postage) that was not reflected in the summary. He also noted that there were more paid advertisements in previous AGIC Newsletters and that some agencies contributed substantially more than the \$100 minimum membership fee in the past. Although, with the loss of the AGIC Intern, no one is currently available to solicit more advertising and contributions, it was estimated that AGIC will be receiving up to \$6,000 or \$7,000 in membership fees and contributions. Additional revenue from the MAGIC '95 conference is also anticipated.

Meanwhile, the job description for the secretarial position in the State Cartographer's Office is being rewritten, but the other two positions have already been approved. All three are covered civil service positions. In earlier discussions, Board members generally concluded that there are enough qualified candidates in Arizona without resorting to national recruitment. It was also pointed out that the salaries being offered (\$35,000 to \$55,000 for the State Cartographer and \$29,500 to \$45,700 for the Assistant State Cartographer) will probably not be high enough to attract many qualified candidates from outside Arizona, especially given that the State can not pay relocation costs. Members may, however, notify non-residents personally or ask Gary Irish to get the word out through his contacts within the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

The State Cartographer position has already been announced, both on the Internet (on the AGIC home page) and in the AGIC Newsletter; so Board members were advised to start actively recruiting candidates for this position. Anyone interested in applying must submit a resume and a Resumex cover form to State Personnel (Human Resources). Ms. Larson requested that she be notified as well. The Resumex system is relatively new and has had some bugs; so her list will be used as a cross-check to ensure that no qualified candidates slip through the cracks. December 1 was suggested as a reasonable cut-off date for submission of resumes.

Arizona State Land Department is responsible for final selection of the State Cartographer but would appreciate AGIC's help in narrowing down the list. For the screening committee, Ms. Larson suggested pulling representatives from every sector. Having already contacted some individuals, she recommended Jon Chase, Don McTaggart, Seth Franzman, Rudy Stricklan, Ken Osborn, and herself to serve on the committee. Chris English later moved that the proposed list of committee members be approved, and Dan Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLAN - Reporting on overall progress, Chris English asked if everyone had received the September issue of the AGIC Newsletter, which contained a synopsis of presentations given at the conference. He said efforts to address some issues in the original Strategic Plan could stand to be doubled if the resources are ever available. Other issues need to be repeated in the revised Plan and

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kept in front of everyone. Some new endeavors also need to be undertaken. Mr. English indicated that a new Plan will be drafted and presented to the Board as soon as time permits. He added that there is at least one list server for technology and that Robert MacArthur is creating a list server for the education effort. Anyone interested was encouraged to contact Dr. MacArthur, of the University of Arizona, at (520) 621-2489 or FAX (520) 621-8801.

**Administrative & Legal** - Gary Irish noted that the Board had recently been having some difficulty with attendance. The problem did not exist a year ago. Although a few members have never been very active, the Board was usually able to achieve a quorum in past years. Consequently, the Administrative and Legal subcommittee has been asked to study the situation. Mr. Irish welcomed anyone to give suggestions to either him or Lynn Larson.

Some individuals questioned whether changing to a bimonthly schedule could be part of the problem. Seth Franzman explained that the original intention was to free up time for members to participate in subcommittee and working group meetings but conceded that monthly Board meetings might be easier to schedule and remember. Among the options mentioned were (1) changing back to monthly Board meetings, (2) alternating between Board and subcommittee meetings on a monthly basis, or (3) conducting abbreviated Board meetings every other month, following the subcommittee meetings. Scott Hutchinson wondered about utilizing E-mail to communicate meeting plans and stimulate attendance but dropped the idea when a show of hands revealed that only about 40 percent of the members present could be accessed by E-mail.

Gene Trobia reaffirmed that the Administrative and Legal subcommittee would look at the issue and share its findings with the Board in January. Those interested in participating in the subcommittee meeting were asked to sign a sheet to receive details on when and where the meeting would be held.

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**Data Resources** - Gary Irish said most of the activity is currently taking place in the thematic working groups. The Geodetic Control group is putting finishing touches on its draft report and will have recommendations for the Board to look at. The Parcels and Administrative Boundaries group is working on a very complex issue but has persuaded representatives from a full gamut of organizations to join the effort. Having completed its 1:100,000-scale digital data by adding management codes, cartographic order, stream names, and other enhancements, the Hydrography group is now entering a new phase of work.

**Education** - Chris English indicated that the Education subcommittee had added a private sector representative and was implementing a list server. He said that much is going on the area of education and that the subcommittee needs to work more on getting information out to the community. Some relevant information has already been communicated through the AGIC Newsletter.

**Information Exchange** - Sally Lanier was out ill, but Chris English suggested that some information could be gleaned from the MAGIC '95 budget summary that was distributed earlier in the meeting.

**Technology** - Gene Trobia stated that no one was currently in charge of the subcommittee but that a home page Technology notice had gone out on the Internet. Gary Irish said he had received a couple of E-mail messages from Robert MacArthur, at the University of Arizona, indicating that he would like to get involved in the Technology subcommittee. Anyone interested was instructed to contact Dr. MacArthur.

Joan Laurence asked if anyone had considered assembling and selling updated lists of GIS contacts, similar to the one printed in the GIS Survey document. Chris English assured her that the idea of updating the survey had come up time and time again. It was noted that this might be an appropriate task for the State Cartographer's Office.

FGDC/AGIC RELATIONSHIP - Using an overhead, Chris English summarized the situation. Basically, as the central coordinating body for GIS in Arizona, AGIC has been invited to participate in setting up national GIS cooperation with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), which was established as a group to carry forward federal spatial data standards and implement national policy related to mapping. The FGDC is contacting states first that are considered leaders in GIS. Arizona has been given this distinction.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) ran into major difficulties in trying to develop data for the whole United States. Rigid standards were set, and all federal agencies were told that they must adhere to the standards. The requirements were passed down to local agencies, who instantly let their feelings be known, dispelling the assumption that everyone would readily volunteer their data and adopt the new standards. Therefore, coordinators are now trying a modified approach. The federal government is asking for cooperation from state and local agencies.

Promoting consensus among cooperating participants in a national effort is a major challenge. One of the key issues that must be resolved is cost recovery. One camp favors full cost recovery; the other favors open access. Data transfer, data content, collection, and quality control issues must also be addressed.

The FGDC is trying hard to build support. Nothing is definite yet, but they are working toward a national spatial data infrastructure. The idea is to have everyone pass along their data to those responsible for ensuring conformance. Acceptable data will then be distributed through the federal clearinghouse.

The FGDC will provide someone to put on workshops for the purposes of keeping people informed about the FGDC and helping everyone understand how to use the system. There may be a meeting in each state to discuss data issues, or there may be regional meetings. Some grants will also be available to states. A total of about 50 grants will be available for clearinghouse sites. The process will, however, be somewhat competitive. As a cooperating member, AGIC would be among the first groups to know about anything interesting that is happening and would receive regular updates on FGDC activities.

Gene Trobia explained that the federal standards have not yet been fully implemented. Implementation of the metadata standards is, in fact, still in the formative stages. Cooperating members will probably get to look at guidelines, standards, agendas, and other related items earlier in the process and voice approval or give input. Therefore, although only "full-fledged" members generally have voting rights, local agencies could greatly benefit from AGIC's participation in the process.

Seth Franzman asked about the downside of participation and was told that, if AGIC does not carefully watch what is going on, there is a risk of appearing to endorse standards and measures that are not in Arizona's best interest. There does not, however, seem to be anyone in a better position to speak on behalf of Arizona. Therefore, it was agreed that a letter should be sent stating that AGIC accepts the offer to participate but has reservations about potential conflicts with Arizona's priorities and goals and reserves the right to terminate the relationship later, if desired. Seth Franzman seconded a motion from Joan Laurence in favor of proceeding in this manner. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Trobia said he was pleasantly surprised that the federal coordinators were so responsive to the negative feedback they received. He added that, had it not been for that input, there probably would be more federal development of standards.

NSGIC - Chris English distributed copies of one handout and mentioned that there were about 20 other handouts available on the back

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table for anyone who was interested.

He said that he, Gary Irish, and Gene Trobia had been asked to help with the 1996 National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) conference, which is being held in Tucson next September. The current plan is to assemble something similar to the GIS museum that was displayed during the MAGIC '95 conference; so everyone was asked to be thinking about things they would like to "show off to the nation" on behalf of Arizona's GIS community. Gene Trobia added that many details relating to the conference will probably be decided during preliminary planning meetings in Tucson November 17 through 21, 1995.

Mr. English agreed with Gary Irish that, although AGIC may be involved in some program activities, the burden should be relatively light, but he stressed the importance of AGIC's participation in NSGIC. Having attended two national meetings this year, he said there seemed to be a considerable amount of tension and confusion about the issues of data development and data standards. NSGIC has expressed an interest in becoming more political and acting as an official representative for the states. Recognizing the potential significance of letting another body speak on behalf of Arizona regarding key policy issues, Mr. English encouraged AGIC members to participate and keep informed so that AGIC can respond appropriately.

AGIC INTERN - With planned staffing of the State Cartographer's Office, Gene Trobia suggested that the Administrative and Legal subcommittee discuss the past and future roles of the AGIC Intern and share its recommendations during the next Board meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Gene Trobia presented a special plaque expressing appreciation for the excellent job Chris English did over the past year as President of AGIC's Executive Management Board.

Joan Laurence questioned the concept of having just one name on the ballot for each office. Mr. Trobia explained that, unless others volunteer, Lynn Larson is usually gracious enough to fill in as Secretary, but someone must be recruited for the position of Vice President. The office of President is filled through automatic succession.

Gary Irish confirmed that Ms. Larson, as head of the Administrative and Legal subcommittee, does ask for volunteers, but few come forward. Fortunately, the subcommittee has always been able to find someone who is willing to serve upon being approached. He announced that this year's candidate for Vice President was Don McTaggart, of Arizona State University.

Mr. Irish distributed the ballots and asked for volunteers to help count votes while other business was being transacted. Later, having tallied the 13 ballots cast, Ms. Laurence reported that Dr. McTaggart was the new Vice President, with 13 "yes" votes, and that Lynn Larson would continue to serve as Secretary, with 12 people voting "yes" and 1 voter abstaining.

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Before moving on, Seth Franzman and Gene Trobia expressed gratitude to Lynn Larson and her staff at Arizona State Land Department for everything they do to support AGIC.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS - Gene Trobia said the University of Arizona had sent a response to AGIC's letter regarding a proposed rural outreach program at the U of A. As the originators somewhat anticipated, the University reviewed the proposal but did not include it in the 1996/1997 budget request because there were too many higher priority items.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC - No further comments were offered at this point.

NEXT MEETING - Mr. Trobia announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 4 at the same location (large conference room, basement, 1600 W. Monroe, Phoenix). The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.